

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01

OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-11 NEA-10 OIC-04 RSR-01 /225 W

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R 271457 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0071

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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E. O.11652 NA

TAGS ETRD GATT

SUBJ GATT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

REF GENEVA 3069

SUMMARY: AS PREPARATORY COMMITTEE SESSION APPROACHES,
ATTITUDES OF RESIDENT REPS IN GENEVA GENERALLY RANGE FROM SKEP-
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TICAL TO PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY PREPCOM. WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED NO ONE WHO COULD BE DESCRIBED

AS OPTIMISTIC. USUAL APPRASAL IS THAT PC WILL DO WELL IF IT CAN AGREE ON DRAFT DECLARATION ALONG LINES OF CPS AGREEMENT LAST NOVEMBER AND NO ONE EXPECTS EFFECTIVE PRENEGOTIATIONS OR OTHER PROGRESS BEYOND REITERATED ENUNCIATION OF BROAD PRINCIPLES. PRESSURE OF LDCS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT AS PRINCIPLE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND OF OTHER LDC CLAIMS IS SEEN AS PROBABLY MAJOR FOCUS OF MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION HAS DISCUSSED SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT REPORT AND PLANS FOR JULY PREPCOM SESSION WITH NUMBER OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY RESIDENT DELS. REACTIONS TO DRAFT REPORT ARE MIXED, RANGING FROM JAPANESE, WHO ARE RATHER SATISFIED, TO NEW ZEALANDERS, WHO ARE CRITICAL AND CONCERNED BY MANNER IN WHICH REPORT TREATS AGRICULTURE. MOST DELEGATIONS APPEAR TO BE CONSIDERABLY LESS CONCERNED ABOUT REPORT THAN WE (REFTEL). HOWEVER ALL DELEGATIONS WITH WHICH WE HAVE TALKED SHARE FEELING THAT DECLARATION RATHER THAN REPORT WILL BE THE IMPORTANT DOCUMENT AND ARE INCLINED TO FEEL THAT PC SHOULD PUT ITS PRINCIPAL FOCUS ON PREPARATION OF DECLARATION. JAPANESE HAVE GIVEN MISSION DRAFT POINTS FOR DECLARATION, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND ALSO MADE AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON.

2. REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR PREPCOM, MOST DELEGATIONS FEEL THAT IT CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN DRAFT DECLARATION, SETTING OUT BROAD PRINCIPLES WITH LOWER COMMON DENOMINATOR, I. E. NO ONE THINKS REAL NEGOTIATING (OR PRENEGOTIATION) PROGRESS WILL BE MADE RE PRINCIPLES OR RULES OF NEGOTIATIONS. CONTRIBUTING TO THIS FEELING IS BELIEF EC WILL HAVE NEITHER DESIRE NOR DEGREE OF INTERNAL AGREEMENT NECESSARY TO MOVE FORWARD, EVEN IF ADEQUATE MANDATE IS AVAILABLE, AND DOUBTS RE U. S., PARTICULARLY QUESTION OF U. S. DRAFT LEGISLATION.

3. ON BASIS LDC DEMANDS IN CTD AS WELL AS AT LAST NOVEMBER CP MEETING AND IN OTHER FORUMS FOR PAST YEAR AND A HALF, IT IS REGARDED AS PRACTICALLY CERTAIN THAT LDCS WILL EXERT STRONG PRESSURE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PREFERENCE PRINCIPLE AND OTHER CONCESSIONS TO THEM GOING BEYOND AGREED NOVEMBER SUMMARY. (PATTERSON TOLD US IN THIS CONNECTION HE THINKS IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR U. S. AND EC TO TELL LDCS " NO" VERY FIRMLY AND AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. HOW- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVER WE DOUBT THIS VIEW WIDELY SHARED AT OTHER SENIOR LEVELS OF SEC, INCLUDING LONG WHO TENDS FAVOR PLACATING LDCS ON ISSUES LIKE PREFERENCES.)

4. IN CIRCUMSTANCES THERE IS ALSO FEELING THAT PREPCOM IS SCHEDULED FOR AN EXCESSIVELY LONG PERIOD AND THAT IT MAY BE IN

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES INTEREST, OR AT LEAST NOT HARMFUL, TO SCHEDULE OTHER MEETINGS DURING PERIOD, SUCH AS EC- EFTA WORKING PARTY AND TEXTILES GROUP. THIS WOULD MINIMIZE TIME OTHERWISE WASTED OR EMPLOYED FOR INCREASED PRESSURE BY LDCS.

5. MAJOR PROBLEMS MISSION SEES FOR U. S. ARE (A) HOW TO HANDLE LDC PROBLEM, I. E. WHAT WE CAN OFFER THAT MAY BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM AND WOULD BE SUPPORTED AS A FIRM LINE BY OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY EC AND (B) HOW TO HANDLE AGRICULTURE PROBLEM. ON AGRICULTURE THERE SHOULD BE NO ILLUSION THAT WE CAN EXPECT ANYTHING MORE FAVORABLE FROM PC THAN A NEUTRAL STATEMENT OF INTENT ALONG PREVIOUS LINES. ASIDE FROM APPARENT RESTRICTIVENESS OF EC MANDATE, WE ARE VIRTUALLY ISOLATED IN OPPOSITION TO PHRASEOLOGY RE STABILITY OF MARKETS AND NEARLY SO IN OPPOSITION TO COMMODITY AGREEMENTS.

6. AS MATTER OF TACTICS IN HANDLING DRAFT REPORT, WE THINK IT WILL BE BEST TO MENTION OUR RESERVATIONS IN GENERAL DEBATE IN LOW KEY ONLY, WITHOUT MAKING MAJOR ISSUE OF CONTENTS, AND CONCENTRATE ON ENCOURAGING PREPCOM TO TURN TO DECLARATION. COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON JAPANESE DRAFT OR U. S. COUNTERDRAFT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. BASSIN

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